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SPIDER-MAN

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MONSTER MASH!

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN

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*Bitten by a radioactive spider, high school student **Peter Parker** gained the spider's powers, and soon became the costumed crimefighter the entire world would one day come to know as **Spider-Man!** In the early days of his career, when his amazing powers were still new to him, the teenaged Spider-Man struggled to learn about himself and his abilities, while trying to lead a **normal life!** It would **not** be easy...*

STAN LEE PRESENTS... UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN!

CRY... LIZARD!

DIE, SPIDER-MAN! DIE!
CRASH!
MONSTERS, MUTATION AND MAYHEM, FROM:
KURT BUSIEK WRITER
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RICHARD STARKINGS AND COMICRAFT LETTERING
STEVE MATTSSON COLORS
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HOW DO I GET MYSELF INTO THESE THINGS?!

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YOU DEFEATED ME BY *TRICKERY* BEFORE --

-- BUT THIS TIME I WON'T GIVE YOU THE *CHANCE!*

I EAT RIGHT -- I BRUSH MY TEETH REGULARLY -- I TRY TO BE A NICE GUY --

*IN FACT, IT WAS TRYING TO BE A NICE GUY THAT **STARTED** ALL THIS...*

*AUNT MAY WAS JUST BACK FROM HER **FLORIDA VACATION,** AND OF COURSE, I WAS LATE MEETING HER TRAIN...*

AUNT MAY!

AUNT MAY, OVER *HERE!*

SORRY I'M *LATE* -- I GOT CAUGHT UP IN --

SAY, YOU LOOK *GREAT!* HOPE YOU DIDN'T OVEREXTEND YOURSELF WITH TOO MUCH *DEEP-SEA FISHING,* THOUGH...

YOU'RE SO *SWEET,* PETER.

BUT THE TRAIN TICKET -- IT WAS SO *EXPENSIVE!* I'D PLANNED TO DRIVE HOME WITH THE *ABBOTS,* BUT THEY DECIDED TO VISIT RELATEVES IN GEORGIA...

IT'S OKAY, AUNT MAY. WE'RE FINE. DON'T THINK *TWICE* ABOUT IT.

*BUT SHE WAS **RIGHT** --*

AND THEN I SAW HIM.

HUH? DR. *CONNORS?*

*HE WASN'T THE ANSWER TO MY **MONEY** PROBLEMS...*

...BUT HE COULD MAYBE HELP ME OUT WITH A DIFFERENT SITUATION.

TURNED OUT HE WAS HERE TO GIVE A SERIES OF LECTURES ON HERPETOLOGY AT EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY, SO I SWUNG BY HIS TEMPORARY LAB...

PSST! DOC! HEY, DOC!

SPIDER-MAN?

I WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD DO ME A FAVOR, DOC...

SPIDER-MAN, AFTER THE WAY YOU SAVED ME WHEN I TURNED MYSELF INTO...THAT CREATURE, YOU COULD ASK ME FOR THE MOON, AND I'D DO MY BEST.

IF NOT FOR YOU, I'D HAVE LOST...

...I'D HAVE LOST EVERYTHING THAT MATTERS...

YOU'RE A PAL, DOC. HERE'S WHAT I WANT TO DO...

NO! SCIENTISTS... WITH NEEDLES! THEY LOCK ME UP... NEVER LET ME OUT!

DOC CONNORS HAD DEVELOPED AN EXPERIMENTAL SERUM, BASED ON LIZARD REGENERATION, TO TRY TO REGROW HIS AMPUTATED ARM.

THE SERUM TURNED HIM INTO THE LIZARD -- BUT I FIGURED WE'D TAKEN CARE OF THAT --

-- AND SINCE HE HAD EXPERIENCE WITH ANIMAL TRANSFORMATIONS, HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP BATWING --

-- A KID I'D BEEN SORTA HELPING OUT, WHO HAD A SIMILAR PROBLEM.

LOOK, BATWING -- JUST COME AND MEET THE GUY. HE DOESN'T BITE, I PROMISE!

YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO COME ALL THE WAY INSIDE --

"-- YOU CAN STAY OUT ON THE WINDOW SILL!"

SCARED...

...SCARED...

IT TOOK DAYS TO CONVINCE HIM TO TAKE A CHANCE...

...AND LONGER AFTER THAT BEFORE HE LET US TAKE A BLOOD SAMPLE.

STILL, EVENTUALLY...

WELL, THIS IS INTERESTING. THE MUTAGENIC FACTORS IN HIS BLOOD --

-- THEY'RE REACTING POSITIVELY TO THE TEST SERUM...

WHAT?!

YOU... CURE ME?

YOU CURE ME?!

Ah --!

KSSH

Oh, NO! Oh, PLEASE -- NO!

WHAT IS IT, DOC?

I CUT MY HAND -- LET THE SERUM INTO MY BLOODSTREAM! AND IT'S BASED ON MY OLD SERUM --

-- THE ONE THAT --

-- TURNED ME INTO --

-THE LIZARD!

THE ORIGINAL CHANGE MUST HAVE LEFT HIM VULNERABLE -- FOR HIM TO HAVE TRANS-FORMED SO FAST --

OBSERVE, SPIDER-MAN!

MY CLAWS -- AND MY *UNPARALLELED STRENGTH* -- ALLOW ME TO HALT MY DESCENT, AND LEAVE ME FREE --

-- NOT THAT KNOWING THAT MAKES THINGS ANY MORE COMFORTABLE -- !

UHH!

SWAT

-- TO *DEAL* WITH YOU AS YOU SO RICHLY *DESERVE!*

NO! DON'T HURT... *FRIEND!*

I... *STOP* YOU!

STAY *AWAY,* BOY! THIS IS NO AFFAIR OF *YOURS!*

BATWING, STAY *BACK!* YOU DON'T KNOW HOW FAST HE IS -- HOW *STRONG!*

I SAID *STAY AWAY!*

BATWING, I'M *ALL RIGHT!* SEE?

BUT IT'S TOO LATE.

UKH!

LET HIM GO, LIZARD! THIS IS BETWEEN YOU AND ME!

HE MUST LEARN HIS LESSON, SPIDER-MAN! A BOY MUST LEARN THE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS MISTAKES, OR HE'LL NEVER GROW UP!

HE MUST LEARN --

MY SPIDER-SENSE GOES OFF -- FOR ALL THE GOOD IT DOES.

-- AND SO MUST YOU!

THE CAR'S WAY TOO BIG -- AND MOVING TOO FAST TO DODGE.

UFF!

I CAN'T SEE A THING, AND BY THE TIME I DRAG MYSELF CLEAR --

-- IT LOOKS LIKE PROFESSOR CONNORS'S "LESSON FOR THE DAY" IS OVER.

H-HE'S GONE...

PULLED UP MANHOLE COVER...RAN INSIDE! HE GOT AWAY...

MY FAULT... MY FAULT...

NO. IT'S MY FAULT.

-- FOR ASKING DR. CONNORS TO TAKE SUCH A DANGEROUS RISK IN THE FIRST PLACE. I STEW ABOUT IT ALL NIGHT, AND IN THE MORNING...

IT'S SO GOOD TO BE HOME, PETER!

TO CELEBRATE, I'VE MADE YOUR FAVORITE BREAKFAST -- WHEAT CAKES!

... I FIND SOMETHING ELSE TO STEW ABOUT.

AUNT MAY PUTS A BRAVE FACE ON EVERYTHING -- BUT HARD AS THINGS ARE FOR ME, THEY MUST BE FAR WORSE FOR HER.

SHE SHOULD BE ENJOYING HER GOLDEN YEARS...

... NOT THINKING ABOUT HOW MUCH IS LEFT IN THE BANK ACCOUNT EVERY TIME SHE COOKS A MEAL.

WHEN I GOT THESE POWERS, I THOUGHT I'D BE ON EASY STREET -- I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF AUNT MAY --

-- AND UNCLE BEN, GOD REST HIS SOUL.

BUT INSTEAD, I FOUL UP EVERYTHING I TOUCH. AUNT MAY -- DOC CONNORS --

SKRANG

EVERYTHING!

Uh...

NOBODY SAW THAT.

3

TELL ME NOBODY SAW THAT.

BY THE TIME I GET TO SCHOOL, I'M DEEPER IN MY FUNK. I'M THE ONLY PERSON WHO MAKES WALLOWING IN MISERY A HOBBY...

HEY, PARKER! WHY THE LONG FACE? A COUPLE OF THIRD-GRADERS BEAT YOU UP AND TAKE YOUR LUNCH MONEY?

NO, WAIT, I GOT IT -- YOUR FAVORITE TEAM, THE BOSTON BOOKWORMS, JUST TANKED IN THE CALCULUS BOWL AND YOU'RE ALL BROKEN UP ABOUT IT!

THAT'S IT, FLASH! I'M TIRED OF YOU FLAPPIN' YOUR GUMS JUST TO REMIND YOURSELF YOU'RE STILL BREATHING!

Oh YEAH? YOU GONNA DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, BIG SHOT --

-- OR ARE YOU GOING TO WEASEL OUT, LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO?

I'M ON THE VERGE OF FORGETTING I HAVE A SECRET IDENTITY TO PROTECT, AND PUTTING HIM THROUGH THE WALL --

-- WHEN AN EXCITED MURMUR RUNS THROUGH THE KIDS --

Huh?

WHA-A-AT?!

-- AND NOT BECAUSE OF US.

TINY, YOUR ARM--!

WHAT HAPPENED?!

IT'S NOTHING.

IT DOESN'T MATTER.

WHADDYA MEAN IT'S NOTHING, BIG GUY? WE NEED YOU ON THE TEAM -- AND WITH A BUSTED WING, YOU'LL BE OUT OF ACTION ALL SEASON!

MAN, TINY -- YOU GOTTA TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOURSELF!

I COULD TAKE A PRETTY GOOD GUESS AT WHO BROKE TINY'S ARM --

HEY! WHAT THE--?!

I SAID IT WAS NOTHING AND IT WAS NOTHING, YOU GOT THAT?

NOW DROP IT!

SURE, SURE, WHATEVER YOU SAY!

-- ESPECIALLY SINCE I'D SEEN HIS FATHER YELLING AT HIM, AND HEARD SOMETHING HEAVY GETTING SLAMMED AROUND AT HIS HOUSE.

SHEESH! YOU EXPRESS A LITTLE CONCERN FOR A GUY...

Flash

MIDTOWN FOOTBALL

TINY'S FATHER HAD A PRETTY PRIMITIVE WAY OF MOTIVATING HIS SON.

YOUR DAD'S AN ENGINEER, RIGHT, JASON?

I REMEMBER YOU SAID HE SHOWED YOU HOW TO MAKE SOME OF THOSE COOL PROPS WE USED FOR THE SCHOOL PLAY LAST YEAR...

Uh, SURE, SALLY -- BUT HOW DOES THAT CONNECT TO WHAT YOU WERE SAYING ABOUT SPIDER-MAN?

Sally

BUT WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO ABOUT IT? I CAN'T EXACTLY PUT ON MY SPIDEY-SUIT AND GO BEAT UP TINY'S FATHER...

Oh, THAT REMINDS ME! PETER, YOU'RE SMART, SO TELL ME --

-- DO YOU THINK SPIDER-MAN WOULD BE SO FAMOUS IF HE DIDN'T HAVE HIS PICTURE IN THE BUGLE ALL THE TIME?

WELL, Uh -- HE USED TO BE ON T.V. --

-- BUT NO, I THINK IT'S THE BUGLE'S CRUSADE AGAINST HIM THAT KEEPS HIM IN THE PUBLIC SPOTLIGHT. WHY?

DON'T EVEN ***ASK,*** PARKER. SHE'LL JUST START TALKING ABOUT THE ***GYM TEAM*** -- OR HOW FAMOUS ***MOZART*** WAS WHEN HE WAS OUR AGE.

IT'S A ***GIRL*** THING, I THINK.

MIDTOWN GYMNASTICS

*SALLY'S QUESTION JUST REMINDS ME OF HOW **ROUGH** I HAVE IT AS SPIDEY -- AND HOW AS PETER PARKER, NEWS PHOTOG, I HELP MAKE IT **WORSE.***

*BUT I THINK ABOUT TINY, AND I KNOW IT'S NOT **THAT** BAD.*

AT LEAST MY PROBLEMS ARE MY DOING, AND IF I MESS UP --

-- WELL, IT'S UP TO ME TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

DAILY BUGLE

STILL NO SIGN OF ***BETTY?***

NOT A WORD. LOOK, KID, MAYBE SHE'S JUST NOT COMING BACK FROM HER ***LEAVE OF ABSENCE*** --

-- I KNOW IF I WORKED HERE AS ANYTHING BUT A TEMP, ***I'D*** BE THINKING ABOUT CHANGING MY NAME AND RUNNING OFF TO OUTER MONGOLIA...

GEEZ -- I HOPE NOTHING'S HAPPENED TO HER--!

FIB EX

I WONDER WHERE SHE COULD BE?

*SHE WAS IN SOME KIND OF TROUBLE WITH THE **ENFORCERS** -- BUT THE ENFORCERS ARE IN JAIL NOW!*

*SURELY WHATEVER WAS **GOING ON**, SHE COULD COME BACK NOW -- OR SHE COULD **CALL** ME!*

PARKER!

WHAT'RE *YOU* DOING HERE? IF YOU'RE SNIFFING AROUND FOR A *HANDOUT* --

ACTUALLY, Mr. JAMESON, I WAS HOPING FOR A SMALL ADVANCE -- JUST TO TIDE MY AUNT AND ME OVER UNTIL --

DOES THIS LOOK LIKE A *CHARITY WARD*, PARKER? TODDLE OFF TO THE MALT SHOP, OR WHEREVER YOU *TEENAGERS* GO --

-- AND DON'T COME BACK TILL YOU HAVE SOME *PHOTOS* FOR ME!

WAIT, WAIT -- *HOLD IT* A SEC! WHAT IF I COULD GET YOU PICTURES OF... THE *LIZARD?*

THERE *IS* NO LIZARD. HE'S A *MYTH* -- I PROVED IT.

BUT -- WHAT IF HE *WAS* REAL? AND WHAT IF HE WAS IN *NEW YORK* --

-- AND THE BUGLE HAD *EXCLUSIVE PHOTOS--?*

LOOK, PARKER.

IF THERE *WAS* A LIZARD, AND IF HE *WAS* IN NEW YORK, THEN OF *COURSE* I'D BUY PHOTOS OF HIM. I'D PAY *TOP DOLLAR.*

BUT THERE ISN'T AND HE'S NOT, SO UNTIL YOU'VE *GOT* SOMETHING FOR ME --

-- QUIT *WASTING MY TIME* WITH *FAIRY TALES!*

IT'S A *DEAL,* Mr. J.

I HATE THE IDEA OF PROFITING OFF OF DOC CONNORS' PROBLEMS --

-- BUT IF I COULD HELP HIM AND TAKE CARE OF AUNT MAY AT THE SAME TIME...

OFFICE

-- POSSIBLE SUPERHUMANS INVOLVED!

SEE? COME ON, BATMING --

-- ALL UNITS, CALLING ALL UNITS! BRONX ZOO REPORTING A BREAK-IN AT THE REPTILE HOUSE --

RELAX, BATMING -- WE'LL FIND HIM.

HOW EASY CAN IT BE FOR A MAN-SIZED LIZARD WITH A ROTTEN TEMPER TO HIDE, ANYWAY?

MY FAULT... MY FAULT...

GOT AWAY...

I STOP BY DR. CONNORS' LAB AND WHIP UP A BATCH OF THE ANTIDOTE I USED THE FIRST TIME I FOUGHT HIM.

BATMING'S WAITING, AND HE WANTS TO HELP LOOK --

-- BUT IT'S LIKE THE LIZARD'S JUST VANISHED INTO THIN AIR.

-- LET'S TRAVEL!

THERE'S NO SIGN OF THE LIZARD AT THE ZOO --

-- UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU COUNT A STEEL DOOR TORN OFF ITS HINGES LIKE IT WAS CARDBOARD!

REPTILE HOUSE

WE CAN'T LET THE *POLICE* GET THE LIZARD! HE'S GOT A FAMILY!

911

911

BUT WE GOTTA STAY *QUIET!* HALF THE TIME THE COPS DON'T HAVE MUCH USE FOR ME -- AND THE OTHER HALF THEY *HATE MY GUTS!*

YOU IN THE *REPTILE HOUSE!*

WE HAVE YOU *SURROUNDED* -- COME OUT WITH YOUR *HANDS UP!*

WHADDYA THINK, BILL? THE NIGHT WATCHMAN ON THE *SAUCE* --

-- OR HE REALLY *DID* SEE A GIANT ALLIGATOR WEARIN' CLOTHES?

I GUESS WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO SNEAK PAST THEM...

NO!

OVER THERE... *NEAR SEWER!*

"I *SEE* IT, BATWING! REPTILES -- FREED BY THE LIZARD, NO DOUBT! AND WHEREVER *THEY'RE* HEADED --

"-- THAT'S WHERE WE'LL FIND OL' SCALY *HIMSELF!*"

IT'S GOTTA BE THIS WAY -- IT'S A REGULAR *REPTILE HIGHWAY,* ALL GOING IN THE SAME DIRECTION!

DON'T *LIKE* IT DOWN HERE! WET... DARK...

...AND *SPOOKY!*

THAT AIN'T THE *HALF* OF IT!

ALL THESE GUYS LOOK PRETTY *HARMLESS* -- BUT MY SPIDER-SENSE IS JANGLING TO BEAT THE --

WHOAA!

I DO MY BEST TO KEEP THE GATORS OFF BATWING BUT WE BOTH LOSE OUR FOOTING, AND --

SPLOG!

MONSTERS!

AAAAH!

THE STORM SEWER DRAINS INTO SOME KIND OF *UNDERGROUND CAVERN,* DANK AND MOSSY --

SPIDER-MAN!

SPIDER-MAN!

-- AN APPROPRIATE PLACE --

RELAX, BATWING -- I'VE GOT YOU!

THWIPP

-- WE GOT TO SOLID GROUND!

THANK YOU, SPIDER-MAN...

... WE SAFE NOW!

I DON'T KNOW IF I'D GO THAT FAR!

-- FOR LIZARDS.

SNAP SNAP

AND I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME --

SPIDER-MAN! AGAIN YOU HOUND ME!

ALLIGATORS IN THE SEWERS, LIZZIE?

ISN'T THAT A LITTLE... CLICHÉ?

BAH! SEE IF YOU THINK IT'S STILL SO FUNNY --

-- WHEN I GIVE AN ARMY OF REPTILES MY SERUM AND USE THEM TO CRUSH HUMANITY AND CLAIM THE EARTH AS OUR OWN!

Oh, BA-ROTHER!

I TELL YOU *WHAT*, LIZ. HOW ABOUT *BATWING* HERE CLAIMS EARTH FOR THE BATS, AND I DO IT FOR THE *BUGS*?

WE COULD *SHARE* --

-- ALTERNATE *DAYS* OR SOMETHING!

I MAKE SURE BATWING CAN'T SEE ME WEBBING MY AUTOMATIC CAMERA INTO PLACE. I MAY NEED TO GET PICTURES OF THIS --

-- BUT I DON'T NEED HIM FIGURING OUT WHY!

SIMMER DOWN AND *THINK*, DOC!

-- AND ALL THEY WANT IS FOR YOU TO RETURN TO THEM *SAFE* AND *SOUND*.

A *SON* -- A WIFE--?

I --

-- *NO!* YOU'RE TRYING TO CONFUSE ME -- *TRICK* ME --

ACTUALLY, DOC --

-- RIGHT NOW I'D SETTLE FOR KNOCKING YOU OUT!

KRAK!

YOU DON'T WANT TO CRUSH HUMANITY -- UNDER ALL THOSE SCALES, YOU *ARE* HUMAN! YOU HAVE A *WIFE* WHO LOVES YOU --

-- A SON WHO *NEEDS* YOU --

I'D FORGOTTEN HOW HARD HIS SKIN IS -- IT'S LIKE PUNCHING A STEEL WALL!

KSSSH

BAH! YOU CAN'T *HURT* ME, WHILE I --

AND THEN WE HEAR IT --

AAAAAAAA

Huh?!

THE BOY!

"THE BOY IS IN DANGER!"

N-NO!

STAY B-BACK --!

I DON'T STOP TO NOTICE THAT THE LIZARD EVEN CARES. THERE'S NO TIME FOR THAT --

HANG ON, BATWING --

THWIPP THWIPP

-- THE KID'S GOT NO ROOM TO FLY, AND THEY'RE ALMOST ON HIM --

-- YOU'RE GONNA BE FINE!

WELL DONE, SPIDER-MAN. YOU'VE SAVED HIM. BUT IN DOING SO, YOU'VE TURNED YOUR BACK ON THE LIZARD --

SKK

UHH!

-- AND THAT'S A FATAL ERROR!

HAHAHA!

AND ONCE YOU LIE *BROKEN* ON THE ROCKS, THERE'LL BE NO ONE TO --

NO! DON'T *HURT* HIM!

HE'S... MY *ONLY* *FRIEND*...

...ONLY ONE... EVER *NICE* TO ME!

PLEASE... DON'T *HURT* HIM...

PLEASE...

...*DADDY*?

DID BATWING KNOW WHAT HE WAS SAYING? HAD HE HEARD ME TALKING ABOUT THE LIZARD'S SON, AND HEARD THE WAY IT RATTLED HIM?

WAS HE JUST SCARED AND ALONE, AND WISHING FOR HIS OWN FATHER -- ANOTHER SCIENTIST, WHO'D DIED IN A CAVE LIKE THIS?

I GUESS IT DOESN'T MATTER.

"*DADDY*?" I... WHAT...

...BUH...

...BILLY?

WHAT MATTERS IS --

HOLD THAT *THOUGHT*, DOC...

NO... I...

...BUT...

...WE'LL BRING YOU THE *REST* OF THE WAY.

-- THAT IT WORKED.

I...

...I...

...I'M... I'M BACK!

AND THAT'S PRETTY MUCH THE END OF IT.

DOC CONNORS STILL THOUGHT HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO CURE BATWING -- AND BATWING FIGURED THE DOC KNOWS WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE A MONSTER --

-- SO WHEN CONNORS HEADS BACK TO FLORIDA, BATWING GOES WITH HIM --

-- AND EVERYTHING'S SETTLED...

-- EXCEPT ONE LAST THING...

RRRINGG

HELLO? PARKER RESIDENCE.

JONAH JAMESON, PARKER. I'VE BEEN HEARING POLICE REPORTS ABOUT SOME GIANT REPTILE IN THE BRONX A FEW DAYS AGO --

-- AND I WAS WONDERING ABOUT THOSE PICTURES YOU MENTIONED --

I WISH I HAD SOMETHING FOR YOU, Mr. J.

BUT YOU WERE RIGHT AGAIN -- IT WAS A HOAX. AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, THERE IS NO SUCH CREATURE AS THE LIZARD.

NOT ANY MORE, ANYWAY --

-- AND HOPEFULLY NEVER AGAIN. I JUST CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO MESS UP DOC CONNORS'S CHANCE FOR A NORMAL LIFE --

-- AUNT MAY AND I WILL JUST HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER WAY --

THE PLACE PIGALLE, PARIS.

<MEN.>

<THEY ARE SUCH FOOLS... AND SO EASILY DEFEATED. AND WHERE IS THE CHALLENGE IN THAT?>

<I HAVE PITTED MYSELF AGAINST EVERYTHING THIS CITY HAS TO OFFER... AND I GROW BORED, RESTLESS.>

<I NEED A NEW CHALLENGE.>

<PERHAPS...?

<...PERHAPS NEW YORK...>

NEXT: WHEN COMMANDA STRIKES!